(e) whether Government have any proposal to reduce staff due to this computerization; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Department of Posts has submitted a project proposal to the Planning Commission seeking financial assistance of Rs. 625 crore to computerize and network remaining 18465 Departmental Sub Post Offices, which are not covered under the Tenth Plan Scheme of computerization of Post Offices.

(c) The Planning Commission is yet to give its approval for the project and hence no amount has been allocated.

(d) Number of computers involved in the project, State-wise and District-wise, is yet to be worked out as the project has not been approved so far.

(e) and (f) There is no proposal to reduce staff in the project.

Annual bilateral summit between India and Russia

1929. DR. KARAN SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have decided to held an annual bilateral summit this year;

(b) whether External Affairs Minister at the meeting with the Indo-Russia-China interaction recently announced and backed programme of Indo-Russia exchange for this year;

(c) if so, whether India, Russia and China have agreed to have package programme of bilateral exchanges; and

(d) if so, whether all these three countries have agreed to work together in all international affairs and also help India in getting UN seat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) In the 'Declaration on Strategic Partnership between Republic of India and the Russian Federation' signed on 3rd October, 2000 the two countries announced their decision to convene annual summit level meetings.

(b) and (c) The Foreign Ministers of India, China and Russia had a trilateral meeting in Vladivostok on 2nd June, 2005 and expressed satisfaction at the dynamic development of bilateral relations between India and Russia, Russia and China, India and China. This trilateral meeting did not specify a programme for bilateral exchanges.

(d) The three countries shared a common approach to key global developments in 21st century and favoured the democratization of international relations aimed at building a just world order. As regards UN reforms, including the UNSC, the three countries agreed that the UN should become more reflective of contemporary global realities and more effective in discharging its functions.

Demand of veto power for UNSC seat

†1930. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India, Japan, Germany and Brazil have dropped their demand of 'Veto' power for permanent membership in UN Security Council;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) for how long the said demand has been dropped by these nations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) India, Japan, Germany and Brazil, now being termed as the Group of Four countries (G-4), in their Resolution on UN Security Council reform, introduced in the UN General Assembly on July 11, 2005, have underlined the principle of non-discrimination between the current and the new permanent members in an expanded UN Security Council. They have also underlined that the new permanent members should have the same responsibilities and obligations as the current permanent members. As for the right of the veto, the G-4 Resolution

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.